

Ac 4421(3)

~~D. N. & R. Scott~~
~~2 P.R.O. London Region~~

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

~~G. E. Kiss Buckan~~

~~J. H. H. Haquise~~

5. Library - S. Row



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1959

ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD.

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1959

ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor A. G. CUTMORE (*Chairman*)

Councillor W. PITT (*Vice-Chairman*)

Councillor MRS. E. BISHOP

Councillor MRS. W. E. CONNELL

Councillor J. G. GOW

Councillor N. J. MASTERS

Councillor T. SPARROW

Councillor E. STEELE

Councillor MRS. S. WILLIAMS

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent

W. A. BEERE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector

J. W. KENDALL, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector—Appointed 1.5.59

A. G. PAINE
Chief Clerk

MRS. G. D. STEELE
Shorthand-Typist/Clerk—Resigned 27.6.59

MISS M. MORRIS
Shorthand-Typist/Clerk—Commenced 29.6.59

Health Department,
15 Hatfield Road,
St. Albans.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans
and the Chairman and Councillors of the St. Albans Rural
District Council.*

MR. MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the City of St. Albans and the St. Albans Rural District for 1959.

The general health of the area was good throughout the year except for the usual bi-annual outbreak of measles. There was only one case of poliomyelitis, unfortunately fatal.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record my sincere thanks for the consideration and help you have at all times shown to me, and to my staff I wish to record my sincere thanks for their able and conscientious performance of their duties.

I am also deeply indebted to the chief clerk, secretary and staff in the Divisional Health Office for their assistance in preparation of the statistics for this report, and for the many extra duties carried out by them during the year, which were actually outside their Divisional Health Office duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

		St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population		48,630	35,930
Area (in acres)		5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books—			
Dwelling Houses		15,069	9,364
Shops with living accommodation		311	87
Licensed Premises with living accommodation		74	59
	TOTAL ...	15,454	9,510
Rateable Value		£904,358	£453,822

Extracts from Vital Statistics

		St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.				
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—							
Legitimate	449	379	828		321	294	615
Illegitimate	15	14	29		10	13	23
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .				17.62			17.76
Stillbirths	6	10	16		9	9	18
Deaths	295	262	557		188	246	434
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				11.45			12.08

Birth and Death Rates

Obviously the birth rate in any community will be affected by the percentage of women of child-bearing age and marital status in that community, compared with the average of the country as a whole.

Especially or even more so, a community with a high proportion of elderly people must have a higher death rate than one with few old people and many young ones.

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied "Comparability Factors" to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made.

Applying these two factors to the City and R.D.C. gives the following results:—

	Crude Birth Rate	Comparable Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Comparable Death Rate
City ...	17.62	17.27	11.45	10.99
R.D.C. ...	17.76	18.83	12.08	7.97

Deaths from Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion

St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)	
—	—		1	1.52	

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

		St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	... ...	9	5	14	10	5	15
Illegitimate	... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births	... ...			16.34			23.51
Combined Rate	...			19.40			
Neonatal Death Rate	...			12.84			12.54

The following table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rates since 1947:—

Year	DEATH RATE		BIRTH RATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE	
	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
1947	12.6	9.2	17.9	16.5	33.0	54.0
1948	10.2	6.98	17.2	14.54	19.2	18.1
1949	11.5	8.2	18.2	14.8	13.1	22.2
1950	11.3	7.7	16.3	13.2	33.3	22.5
1951	12.0	7.7	16.4	13.3	27.6	29.1
1952	10.6	6.8	16.5	12.8	27.1	8.1
1953	11.52	18.05	15.60	14.46	29.87	28.64
1954	10.83	17.74	15.43	14.48	18.54	16.59
1955	10.32	19.10	15.93	15.16	15.23	15.28
1956	10.99	19.31	16.31	14.43	15.77	19.78
1957	10.87	16.00	15.48	15.31	15.03	17.79
1958	10.51	13.63	16.90	17.29	22.25	18.46
1959	11.45	12.08	17.62	17.76	16.34	23.51
1902	10.9		21.4		67.4	
1901	13.0		21.6		135.4	

Causes of Death

		St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	5	2	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease ...	—	1	—	—
4.	Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—
8.	Measles ...	—	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach .	7	6	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	21	1	13	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	10	—	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	6	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	20	25	18	12
15.	Leukaemia, alukaemia ...	2	1	2	1
16.	Diabetes ...	1	2	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	43	46	15	41
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	50	32	18	17
19.	Hypertension ...	10	16	4	6
20.	Other heart disease ...	25	33	34	54
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	12	11	6	16
22.	Influenza ...	3	2	2	7
23.	Pneumonia ...	12	14	14	27
24.	Bronchitis ...	19	13	8	7
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	3	2	2	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	1	1
27.	Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	—	—	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	3	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	7	—	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ...	—	—	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations ...	2	3	3	4
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	26	22	28	19
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	7	1	8	1
34.	All other accidents ...	9	7	4	8
35.	Suicide ...	4	3	1	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	1	—	1
TOTALS ...		295	262	188	246
				} 991	

Once again, the greatest single cause of death was, excluding heart disease, cancer. "Heart Disease" was chiefly a normal termination of life in old age—something which is inevitable, and most of the 299 cases would be more reasonably classified as "Old Age".

Vital Statistics, 1959 — England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

BIRTHS

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	16.5
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	20.7

DEATHS

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.6
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	22.0
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.38
Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	15.8

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1959

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1959 are as follows:—

	NUMBER			RATE		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	2,621	854	3,475	120	36	77
Other Tuberculosis	... 190	190	380	9	8	8
Cancer of lung and bronchus	... 18,181	2,882	21,063	831	123	464
Other cancer	... 33,602	42,451	76,053	1,430	1,940	1,676

ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY
(Combined figures for two authorities)

Cause of Death	AGE AT DEATH								
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	1	2	—	1	4
Congenital Malformations	—	10	2	—	12	4	17
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Difficult Labour	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
All Causes	15	3	1	4	3
					19	—	—	3	29

It will be noticed that of the 29 deaths under one year of age, 17 were due to congenial conditions, 10 of them living less than one week. Several of the 10 lived only a matter of minutes. Some 30 years ago the chief cause of death under one was marasmus but over the last few years this has ceased

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics

Bricket Wood—The Scout Hut, Black Boy Wood

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.

Colney Heath—The Pavilion

Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30-4 p.m.

Minor Ailments treated in children's own homes or at local school.

Harpden—Memorial Hospital (Harpden 3696)

Ante-Natal ... Mondays, 2-4 p.m.

Orthopaedic ... Saturdays, a.m. (Surgeon attends once monthly.)

40 Luton Road (Harpden 40)

Ophthalmic ... Mondays, 10 a.m.-12 noon.
(By appointment.)

Minor Ailments ... Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12 noon (Dr. attends).

Speech Therapy ... Tuesdays, 9.30-12 noon; 2-4 p.m.
(By appointment.)

Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.45-4.30 p.m.

Dental ... Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m.-12 noon.
Thursday, 10.30 a.m.-12 noon; 2-4 p.m.
Fridays, 10.30 a.m.-12 noon; 2-4 p.m.
(By appointment.)

Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1.45-4.30 p.m.

London Colney—Primary School, Alexander Road

Speech Therapy ... Mondays and Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m.-12 noon.

Minor Ailments ... Fridays, 9.30 a.m.-12 noon.
(Dr. attends 2nd and 4th.)

Infant Welfare ... Thursdays, 1.45-4.30 p.m.
(Dr. attends 1st and 3rd.)

Redbourn—Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30-4.30 p.m.

Minor Ailments treated 8.15-8.30 a.m. and 6.15-6.45 p.m. at nurse's residence, 18 Bettespool Meadows (Redbourn 251).

St. Albans—Village Hall, Park Street

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1.30-4 p.m.

Mandeville J.M.I. School

Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.

Margaret Wix Health Annexe—High Oaks (St. Albans 56994)

Infant Welfare ... Wednesdays, 1.30-4 p.m.
(Dr. attends 1st and 3rd.)

Speech Therapy ... Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Dental ... Monday a.m. and p.m. (weekly).*
Friday a.m. and p.m. (weekly).*

*By appointment.

Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St. Albans 50421/2).

Immunisation and Minor Ailments	Mondays, 9 a.m.-12 noon. (Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)
Dental	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Saturdays, 9.30 a.m.-12 noon (alternate). Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 2-5 p.m.
Orthoptic	Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-12 noon; 2-4.30 p.m.
Ophthalmic	Tuesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-12 noon.
Speech	Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1.30-4.30 p.m.
Ante-Natal	Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.
Infant Welfare	Tuesday and Friday, 1.30-4 p.m. (Dr. attends Friday.) Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

Bricket House, Bricket Road (St. Albans 55431)

Orthopaedic	... Monday, Wednesday, Friday, all day. Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 2nd Friday, p.m.
-------------	--

Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women)	... Tuesday, 5-7 p.m.; Friday, 2-4 p.m.
V.D. (Men)	... Tuesday, 5-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-12 noon.
Post-Natal ...	... Wednesday, 11 a.m.
Chest Clinic	... Tuesday, 10.30 a.m. (children). Monday, 2 p.m. (St. Albans patients).

Hill End Hospital (St. Albans 55555)

Child Guidance	... Mondays to Fridays a.m. and p.m.
----------------	--------------------------------------

Sandridge—The Parish Hall

Infant Weighing	... 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30-3.30 p.m.
-----------------	--

Shenley

Minor Ailments treated at school.

Wheathampstead—Mead Hall, East Lane

Infant Welfare	... 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30-4 p.m. (Dr. attends 3 p.m.)
----------------	--

Minor Ailments treated 8.30-9 a.m. at nurse's residence, 5 Brewhouse Hill (Wheathampstead 3123).

National Health Service Act

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services administered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my Local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work, especially in what is my most difficult job, assessing medical points for housing applications.

Every ambulance journey exceeding 50 miles outwards has to be sanctioned by me as Divisional Medical Officer, and I can assure you that the case is investigated very carefully indeed before consent is given.

Ambulance Service

I am grateful to Divisional Officer Gunnell for the following report:—

The number of patients conveyed by the St. Albans and Harpenden ambulances during the year has risen, the increase being mainly sitting patients for the various clinics. To cope with this extra traffic without an increase in establishment, the four-seater sitting case vehicles have been replaced by seven-seater Bedford dual purpose ambulances, and these have proved very efficient and successful.

Special arrangements for mobilising and for operational procedure were necessary on the opening of the Motorways M1 and M10. All accident calls to that part of the Motorway in Hertfordshire are handled by the St. Albans Control and the restricted access and lack of turning facility has meant that ambulances from other stations (notably Hemel Hempstead) must continue to St. Albans hospitals while St. Albans and Harpenden ambulances will now run more frequently with accident cases into West Herts and Luton and Dunstable Hospitals,

Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. E. J. Burgess, Secretary, Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information:—

The allocation of beds is as follows:

							St. Albans City Hospital
Surgical	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Medical	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Paediatric	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Gynaecological	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Recovery Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Private Wing—							
Section 5 Beds	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Section 4 Beds	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
					Total	...	394
In-patient Discharges	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,865
Total Out-patient Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,059
Out-patients Minor Surgery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,052
Casualty	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,892

School Medical Service

This service continues to work very smoothly, due largely to the help and co-operation received from Head Teachers. I have been very impressed by the interest taken by parents and in about 75% of the examinations, one of the parents has been present.

The innovation of calling parents up when their children are re-examined following a defect found at a previous examination has proved to be very valuable and is, I believe, thoroughly appreciated by the parents. The attendance of parents at such examinations is very good indeed. It was considered that this might overload the School Medical Officers, in that it would possibly take more time to deal with each individual case, but in practice we find that by calling the parents we do not have to call the children so often, and this fully balances the apparent disadvantage.

Milk and Meals in Schools

These are of a very high standard and a well worth while investment. Washing facilities appear adequate in most cases and food preparation rooms and kitchens clean, though space is often limited.

Health Visiting

There are 22 health visitors in the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons, persons suffering from illness, and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Nursing Homes and Old People's Homes

There are four Registered Nursing Homes in this area, and nine Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

See Public Health Inspector's Report.

Drainage and Sewerage

See Public Health Inspector's Report.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths in the area—one in the City and two in the Rural District—have at all times been well maintained. Continuous filtration and chlorination is carried out at all three and the bacteriological results, which are checked frequently throughout the summer, have proved very satisfactory.

Public Baths

These have been going now for over five years and undoubtedly provide a much-needed service. I have always emphasised that this service is a Public Health service and cannot be expected to be financially self-supporting, but the increasing numbers using the baths suggest that the gap between income and expenditure will decrease, but it will, I am sure, never close. To put up the charges would, I feel sure, increase not decrease the gap.

Mortuary

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary:

Adult—Males	...	...	...	...	...	66
Females	...	...	...	...	...	25
Children—Males	...	...	...	...	...	4
Females	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Post Mortems	...	...	...	...	...	95

General Nutrition

Poor nutrition is rare and often is the result of fussing parents indulging in food fads. Underweight children often are of small birth weight, or have small parents.

Nursing in the Home

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing, which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home and where a request is made personally or at the request of the doctor in attendance.

Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Herts County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over school age within the meaning of the Education Act 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Office staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors, midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations, but these requests must be backed up by a medical or a nurse's certificate. No one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular. So much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the home help that is desired because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas—Easter when, of course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

Section D

HOUSING

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the two Councils. Both use a points scheme, and in addition all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to me as Medical Officer of Health. I have the power to allocate additional points on medical grounds without disclosing my reason for doing so. In extreme cases I also have the power of giving absolute priority, but this power I am very unwilling to use as, of course, if this power were abused it would ruin the whole points scheme, with which I am completely in favour.

The duty thus imposed on me is a very difficult one, and I have no doubt that on occasions I shall make mistakes, but I can assure both Councils that I shall do my utmost to make their housing scheme work as fairly as is humanly possible, bearing in mind the very large and urgent demand for houses.

Points are allotted independently of me for such conditions as overcrowding. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the Housing points scheme.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

The following food poisoning outbreaks and isolated cases were reported:—

ST. ALBANS CITY

- 1 Outbreak involving 7 cases.
- Salmonella Enteriditis.
- 1 Family outbreak involving 3 cases.
- Untyped.
- 2 Single cases Salmonella Typhi-Murium.
- 1 Single case Untyped.

ST. ALBANS R.D.C.

- 1 Salmonella Typhi-Murium

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1959

	St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
	Notified	Deaths	Notified	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	—
Whooping Cough	33	—
Measles	797	—
Pneumonia	36	—
Erysipelas	2	—
Food Poisoning	13	—
Infective Hepatitis	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	3
Meningococcal Infection	...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Non Paralytic)	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	11	—
Acute Encephalitis	...	—	—	—

Poliomyelitis

There was one case of poliomyelitis, paralytic, which was fatal. The infection, undoubtedly in this case, arose outside the area as the family had just moved in.

Poliomyelitis vaccination is now available to all up to the age of 40 and the response to open sessions has been very good, embarrassingly so on one occasion when 650 turned up on a Saturday morning.

Research is going on all over the world on two different lines : (1) To produce a combined vaccine (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis). The difficulty I foresee in this is that whooping cough vaccination should be done very early, about two to three months, whereas poliomyelitis vaccination is not effective

under the age of seven months. (2) A living virus but attenuated so that it is harmless, has been extensively used in America, Russia and, under close control, in this country. So far the difficulty, in this country at any rate, has been that although the virus is harmless to the person it is given to, sometimes it becomes virulent on passing through that person and can give rise to cases of definite poliomyelitis in others, but this difficulty appears to be on the way to solution. One possible advantage in vaccination by this form is that it is given by mouth and not with a syringe.

The principle of living, non-virulent vaccines is very old, vaccination against smallpox is one, but of course it is absolutely necessary to be sure that there is no risk of provoking the real disease.

Winter Sickness

This illness has again been fairly prevalent during the winter. The diagnosis is not by any means always clear, after all many conditions will cause vomiting and diarrhoea, but where we get the really typical cases characterised, in children at any rate, by the explosive vomiting, there is no reasonable doubt.

It was noticed that in these cases there was a tendency to sore throats or sore noses and we started taking nose and throat swabs for all cases, whether the diagnosis was entirely clear or not. The results were very interesting; provided these swabs were taken within 48 hours of the onset of vomiting, they all showed the presence of staphylococcus where the diagnosis was clear. Most of the other cases, where the diagnosis was by no means clear, were negative. Then the types of staphylococcus isolated became very interesting in that many of them were the types of staphylococcus usually associated with food poisoning. The fact that there were several different types isolated was also in accordance with our clinical experience whereby some cases had a tendency to reoccur in about 3 to 4 weeks. This is our experience in accordance with the streptococci in scarlet fever, where it is well known now that one attack of scarlet fever does not produce immunity to attacks of other types of streptococci.

It is too early yet to assert categorically that we have found the cause of winter sickness but I very much hope that other Medical Officers of Health in different parts of the country will check these results and see if it is the same elsewhere. My own results so far bear it out all over my Division, including Harpenden and Boreham Wood, but it is essential that the nose and throat swabs be taken within 48 hours of the onset of vomiting. Subsequent swabs are usually negative.

Tuberculosis

CASES ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1959

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
St. Albans City ...	229 (234)	133 (135)	19 (23)	18 (17)	399 (409)
St. Albans R.D....	162 (174)	127 (134)	11 (12)	16 (19)	316 (339)
TOTALS ...	391 (408)	260 (269)	30 (35)	34 (38)	715 (748)

Figures at 31.12.58 are in brackets.

The increases are, I believe, due to more intensive search for cases, e.g., Mass Radiography, and the better co-operation of other Local Authorities in notifying to us their cases moving into our district. I do not think the disease is, in fact, increasing.

Smallpox

There were no cases during 1959.

Vaccination

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED (OR RE-VACCINATED) DURING 1959

	Ages at 31st December					Total
	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 and over	
Number vaccinated ...	1,726	61	25	45	27	1,884
Number re-vaccinated ...	—	—	6	23	119	148
Number of cases specially reported during period (age groups as above) ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of births registered for the St. Albans Division ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,314
Primary vaccination rate per 100 births ...	...	...	...	...	...	81.4

Of the total number of primary vaccinations (1,884), 952 were done at County Council Clinics.

The primary vaccination rate of 81.4 per 100 births is up on last year (78.75).

I strongly advocate vaccination before the age of 1 year when the risks involved are negligible. Many people in later life find they must be vaccinated either to travel abroad or take up some employment where vaccination is insisted upon. The risks in vaccination in later years are much greater, except when the primary vaccination has been done in infancy.

The great increase in air travel has also increased the risk of smallpox being brought into the country, as a case may be infected in, say, Egypt or India, and be here before the onset of the disease, whereas previously, by surface transport, the time involved in the journey ensured that the disease became apparent before landing in the United Kingdom.

Diphtheria

There were no cases reported in 1959.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1959:—

Age at date of final injection :

Under 5	5-15	Total	
1,739	32	1,771	932

Number of birth registered for the same area 2,314

Primary immunisation rate per 100 births 76.5

The numbers shown above include 1,093 children who received primary combined Whooping Cough-Diphtheria immunisation injections and 354 children who received reinforcing combined injections.

Whooping Cough

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1959:—

Age at date of final injection :

Under 5	5-15	Total
1,511	28	1,539

These figures include 1,093 children who received a primary immunisation with a combined Whooping Cough-Diphtheria vaccine.

Several cases of Whooping Cough have occurred in children who have been immunised, but all such cases have been very mild indeed. We do not claim that whooping cough immunisation prevents whooping cough to anything like the extent that diphtheria immunisation prevents diphtheria, but it will prevent altogether the disease in most cases and, in others, turn what is a very long, distressing and sometimes fatal disease into what could fairly be called a "Minor Ailment".

Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to a complete full course):—

Programme of Protective Inoculations

The following programme of inoculations has been recommended:—

Age	Visit	Vaccine	Inj.	Interval
2-6 months	1	Triple (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)	1	4 weeks or more 4 weeks or more
	2		2	
	3		3	
7-10 months	4	Poliomyelitis	4	4 weeks or more
	5		5	
15-18 months	6	Triple (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) Poliomyelitis* Smallpox some time during the first 5 years	6	Same visit
			7	
			8	
	7	Diphtheria and tetanus		
8-9 years	8	Diphtheria and tetanus Smallpox (re-vaccination)	9	Same visit
10-15 years	9	B.C.G.	10	

* There is no doubt that a fourth dose of poliomyelitis vaccine will be necessary, but the exact timing of this dose has not yet been decided.

Poliomyelitis Vaccine

The only contraindications considered to be valid at present are the same as those applying to the other types of immunising procedures, viz., acute or intercurrent illness, poor or indifferent general health, acute constitutional disturbance, etc. If a child is to have tonsils or adenoids removed and is also due for the vaccine, it should be given at least two weeks before the operation if possible, in the hope that the child may develop some immunity.

B.C.G. Vaccine

If this vaccine is to be—or has been—given to a young child contact, there should be no immunising injections within six weeks before or after the B.C.G. vaccine.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

This table is enclosed by a request of the Minister of Labour to indicate to Medical Officers of Health the prescribed particulars which are required by Section 128(3) of the Factories Act, 1937, to be furnished in their Annual Reports with respect to matters under Parts I and VIII of that Act which are administered by the District Council. This table, which is not intended to supersede the fuller statement which is desirable in the text of the Report, should be attached as an annex to the Report.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. ALBANS IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	63	33	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	3	—	—
TOTAL ...	76	37	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:—

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tem- perature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	1	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT
Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	Section 110		Section 111	
		Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served
Wearing apparel (Making, etc., Cleaning and Washing)	...	—	—	—	—
Household linen	—	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets	...	—	—	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and upholstery	...	—	—	—	—
Electro-plate	—	—	—
File making	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles	...	—	—	—	—
Fur pulling	—	—	—
Iron and steel cables and chains					
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels	—	—	—
Cart gear	—	—	—
Locks, latches and keys	...	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas, etc.	—	—	—

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Council Offices,

43 Upper Lattimore Road,
St. Albans.

April, 1960.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1959.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies of the area continued to receive close attention and a total of sixty samples were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

All the dwelling houses in the district have a piped water supply with the exception of 190.

Of the 190 dwelling houses without a piped water supply 186 take their supplies from private bores or wells, but the remaining 4 have not, within a reasonable distance, a supply of wholesome water sufficient for the domestic purposes of the occupants. These 190 dwelling houses are located as follows:—

		<i>With Wells or Bores</i>	<i>No Supply</i>
Harpden Rural	...	12	2
Redbourn	...	28	—
Wheathampstead	...	34	—
Sandridge	...	43	—
Colney Heath	...	22	—
London Colney	...	2	—
St. Stephens	...	40	—
St. Michaels	...	5	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		186	4

SWIMMING BATHS

There are two swimming baths not under the Council's management which are open to the public and in respect of which a charge is made for admission. Under an arrangement between the Education Authority and the Proprietors, they are used extensively by the schools. At each the system of continuous circulation and purification of the water is operated. Close supervision was exercised throughout the season, and a total of 83 samples of the waters were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

By agreement with the manager, a swimming pool which is maintained in connection with a private recreation club and used by a considerable number of members, was sampled regularly throughout the summer.

HOUSING

1. Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	19
2. Number of demolition or closing orders made:						
(a) Demolition orders	...	...	...	...	...	6
(b) Closing orders—						
Whole premises	...	...	...	...	...	3
Part premises	...	...	...	...	...	—
3. Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	12

In Appendices I and II statistics are shown of the progress made up to the 31st January, 1960, in respect of the slum clearance programme prepared in 1955, and in Appendix III there is a statement showing the position at the 31st January, 1960, in relation to 47 houses which were not included in the Council's slum clearance programme but in respect of which slum clearance action was taken in the period from the submission of the slum clearance programme in August, 1955, to the 31st January, 1960.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Statistics prepared by Miss Sharpe, the Council's Housing Officer, are shown in Appendix IV.

APPENDIX I

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME PREPARED IN 1955

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PROGRESS MADE UP TO THE 31st JANUARY, 1960, IN RESPECT OF THOSE HOUSES SCHEDULED FOR ACTION IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF THE PROGRAMME

PARISH	Number of houses included in first five years of Programme	Position at the 31st January, 1960, of the 119 houses in respect of which action has been taken					
		Number demolished	Vacant and awaiting demolition	Demolition Orders made but premises not yet vacated	Und'r't'kings accepted: premises at present vacant	Number re-conditioned and improved	Number in respect of which action is now proceeding
Colney Heath	25	11	1	2	—	10	1
Harpenden Rural	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
London Colney	18	—	—	—	—	5	2
Redbourn	39	25	4	—	7	2	—
St. Michaels	...	1	—	—	—	—	1
St. Stephens	...	13	6	1	—	—	4
Sandridge	...	6	5	—	—	—	1
Wheathampstead	...	27	17	2	—	2	—
TOTALS	...	129	74	8	3	24	10

APPENDIX II

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME PREPARED IN 1955

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PROGRESS MADE UP TO THE 31st JANUARY, 1960, IN RESPECT OF THOSE HOUSES SCHEDULED FOR ACTION IN THE SECOND FIVE YEARS OF THE PROGRAMME

PARISH	Number of houses included in second five years of Programme	Position at the 31st January, 1960, of the 18 houses in respect of which action has been taken			Number outstanding in respect of which action is now proceeding
		Demolition Orders made but premises not yet vacated	Number demolished	Number reconditioned and improved	
Colney Heath	...	—	—	—	—
Harpenden Rural	...	1	—	—	1
London Colney	...	2	—	—	2
Redbourn	...	17	1	3	7
St. Michaels	...	—	—	—	—
St. Stephens	...	2	—	—	2
Sandridge	...	6	—	—	2
Wheathampstead	...	15	—	1	11
TOTALS	...	43	1	4	25
				2	10

APPENDIX III

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME PREPARED IN 1955

STATEMENT SHOWING THE POSITION AT 31st JANUARY, 1960, IN RELATION TO 47 HOUSES WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE COUNCIL'S SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME BUT IN RESPECT OF WHICH SLUM CLEARANCE ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE PERIOD FROM THE SUBMISSION OF THE SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME IN AUGUST 1955 TO 31st JANUARY, 1960

PARISH	Number of houses in respect of which action was taken	Number demolished	Demolition Orders made but premises not yet vacated	Closing Orders made	Reconditioned and improved		Action now proceeding
					—	—	
Colney Heath	...	3	—	1	—	—	—
Harpenden Rural	...	4	—	—	—	—	4
London Colney	...	3	1	—	—	1	—
Redbourn	...	16	—	—	1	6	9
St. Michaels	...	1	—	1	—	—	—
St. Stephens	...	3	1	—	—	—	1
Sandridge	...	4	—	—	1	1	2
Wheathampstead	...	13	—	—	2	—	11
TOTALS	...	47	2	4	4	10	27

APPENDIX IV

**I am indebted to Miss C. I. Sharpe, the Council's Housing Officer, for the following
HOUSING STATISTICS**

**NUMBER OF PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE
COUNCIL AT 31st DECEMBER, 1959**

**ANALYSIS SHOWING HOUSING
PROGRESS FROM JANUARY 1st
TO DECEMBER 31st, 1959**

PARISH	Pre-war houses	Post-war houses	Acquired property	TOTAL	Number of families rehoused in 1959	
					Number of properties vacated in 1959 other than by transfer	9*
London Colney	...	100	420	521	Nil	9
Redbourn	...	128	258	386	Nil	8
St. Stephens	...	34	198	232	Nil	6
Colney Heath	...	108	142	251	Nil	3
Sandridge	...	54	130	184	Nil	8
Wheat Hampstead	...	90	205	299	Nil	7
St. Michaels	...	16	—	16	Nil	1
Harpden U.D.C.	...	—	14	14	Nil	—
Harpden Rural	...	—	—	—	Nil	—
City Area	...	—	—	3	Nil	—
TOTALS	530	1,367	9	1,906	Nil	48*
						46*

* Two families transferred from unfit Council properties, i.e. 1 and 2 The Fire Station, London Colney.

NUISANCES

Sixty-five complaints of alleged nuisances were received and suitable action taken.

WASPS

The Council undertake the destruction of wasps' nests without charge. In the 1959 season a total of 180 nests were destroyed.

REPLACEMENTS OF PAILCLOSETS BY WATERCLOSETS

The Council continued their policy of making contributions under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, towards the expenses reasonably incurred by the owners of buildings in the execution of necessary works in connection with the replacement of pailclosets by waterclosets.

During the year 15 pailclosets were replaced. Replacements during each of the preceding five years were as follows:—

1958	...	...	25
1957	...	...	37
1956	...	...	84
1955	...	...	32
1954	...	...	37

RODENT CONTROL

Statistics in respect of rodent control work for the year ended 31st March, 1960, are shown in Appendix V.

The Council operate a rat contract service in respect of agricultural and industrial premises. At the 31st December, 1959, the number of current contracts was twenty and their total annual value was £191 1s. 0d.

APPENDIX V

RODENT CONTROL

Period 1st April, 1959, to 31st March, 1960

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (inc. business premises)	TOTAL
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	5	9,945	211	330	10,491
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the three months ended 31st March, 1960, as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	379	—	17	396
(b) Survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ...	5	36	147	80	268
(c) Otherwise, e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose ...	—	250	—	110	360
3. Number of properties inspected (see Section 2) which were found to be infested by rats	3	321	35	25	384
4. Number of properties inspected (see Section 2) which were found to be infested by mice	—	27	—	8	35
5. Number of infested properties (see Sections 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	3	348	20	19	390

REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Nine premises are registered in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and preserved food, etc. Of these forty-eight are registered for the sale of ice cream and one is registered for both the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

From the figures in Appendix VI of this report, it will be noted that the total number of food premises in the district is 196.

MILK

The following table gives details of current registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Premises registered	Persons carrying on the trade of Milk Distributors elsewhere than at or from a Dairy Farm		
Dairy premises other than Dairy Farms	From shops in the St. Albans Rural District	From premises within the St. Albans Rural District not being shop premises	From premises outside the St. Albans Rural District
10	6	5	8

The following tables give details of licences granted under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"
4	8

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"
7	7	8	6

APPENDIX VI

SUMMARY OF FOOD PREMISES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Type of Food Premises	London Colney	Colney Heath	St. Stephens	Wheat- hamp- stead	Red- bourn	Sand- ridge	St. Michaels	Harpen- den	Rural	TOTAL
1. Grocery and Provision Stores ...	10	7	10	7	11	3	—	1	—	49
2. Grocery, Provisions and Butcher	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
3. Grocery, Provisions and Café ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
4. Butchers	1 1 1 1	1 — — —	1 1 1 1	4 — — —	— <td>—<td>—<td>—</td><td>8</td></td></td>	— <td>—<td>—</td><td>8</td></td>	— <td>—</td> <td>8</td>	—	8
5. Bakers' Shops 2	1 1 1 3	2 1 1 1	— 1 4 3	— — — —	— <td>—<td>—</td><td>4</td></td>	— <td>—</td> <td>4</td>	—	4
6. Bakeries 1	... 2 1 1	... 1 1 1	— 2 4 2	— — — 2	— <td>—<td>—</td><td>7</td></td>	— <td>—</td> <td>7</td>	—	7
7. Sweets and Confectionery 3	1 1 1	1 4 3	3 4 2	— — —	— <td>—<td>—</td><td>10</td></td>	— <td>—</td> <td>10</td>	—	10
8. Greengrocers and Fruiterers —	... —	... —	— 1	— —	— <td>—<td>—</td><td>14</td></td>	— <td>—</td> <td>14</td>	—	14
9. Wet and Fried Fish —	... —	... —	— 1	— —	— <td>—<td>—</td><td>1</td></td>	— <td>—</td> <td>1</td>	—	1
10. Cafés, including Clubs and Licensed Restaurants 4 1 — 1 — 3 —	4 2 1 —	— — 2 —	1 1 1 —	2 — <td>—</td> <td>16</td>	—	16
11. Factory Canteens 4 1 — 3 —	— — 2 4	— — 1 —	— <td>—<td>—</td><td>6</td></td>	— <td>—</td> <td>6</td>	—	6
12. Schools and Institutions 3 2 2	— — —	— — —	— <td>—<td>—</td><td>13</td></td>	— <td>—</td> <td>13</td>	—	13
13. Hospitals and Nursing Homes 7 9 8	— — 14	— — 11	— — 5	— <td>—</td> <td>9</td>	—	9
14. Food Factory 7 9 8	— — 14	— — 11	— — 5	— <td>—</td> <td>1</td>	—	1
15. Licensed Houses	— — —	— — —	— — 1	— <td>—</td> <td>56</td>	—	56
TOTALS ...	38	23	36	41	38	15	3	2	196	

WATERCRESS

There are two watercress beds in use in the district, namely, one in the Parish of Wheathampstead and one in the Parish of Redbourn. The growers concerned have made arrangements for the treatment of the cut cress before despatching to market.

MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep and pigs for human consumption is carried out at three licensed slaughterhouses and details of the total number of animals slaughtered thereat during the year and of the condemnations are given in Appendix VII. A one hundred per cent inspection was maintained throughout.

I am indebted to Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, Chief Public Health Inspector, City of St. Albans, and his staff for co-operating in these duties.

The slaughter of horses for human consumption is carried out at a licensed slaughterhouse at London Colney.

APPENDIX VII

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1959**

35

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1,435	142	312	4,812	4,818	32
Number inspected	1,435	142	312	4,812	4,818	32
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	1	5	5	19	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	220	15	4	93	205	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.68	11.27	2.88	2.04	4.65	21.88
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	2	—	—	—	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.56	1.41	—	—	0.54	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	9	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public cleansing is by direct labour. The work includes refuse collection, nightsoil collection and cesspool emptying.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection is carried out by four teams of collectors. Three of these teams operate with three 25 cu. yd. Dennis Paxit Major vehicles in the more built up parts of the district, and the remaining team, using a 10 cu. yd. side-loading vehicle, covers the more sparsely populated parts of the district.

Reserve vehicles are maintained to permit of regular servicing and to meet emergencies.

An incentive bonus scheme operated most successfully throughout the year and has been a prime factor in attracting and holding the necessary labour force and has ensured that each vehicle has been employed with maximum effect. On the three urban rounds the number of premises cleared per man per hour averages at about $17\frac{3}{4}$ and on the rural round the average per man per hour is about $13\frac{1}{2}$.

At the beginning of the year a collection was being made from 9,636 premises, but owing to building development this had increased to 10,130 at the end of the year. In the case of 54 of the 10,130 premises, the collections, by arrangement, were on a fortnightly basis. In the case of three large hospitals the collections were made twice weekly and in respect of all other premises a once-weekly collection was maintained.

Collection of Trade Refuse

A scheme for the collection of trade refuse is operated. The main provisions of the scheme are as follows:—

1. A weekly collection of domestic refuse from trade premises shall be maintained but not more than one bin per collection shall be removed by the collector of domestic refuse.
2. A separate collection of trade refuse shall be made on the basis of a weekly collection or at such other required intervals as circumstances may suggest.
3. The trader shall place his trade refuse in bins or in compact units, each unit not to exceed the normal bin equivalent.
4. The charge shall be at the rate of 1/- per bin or bin equivalent.

A collection of trade refuse is made from 32 premises and the total number of bins or bin equivalents collected in the year ended 31st December, 1959, was 3,518.

Collection of Bulky Refuse

Frequently householders desire to dispense with old, bulky articles such as beds, mattresses, perambulators, tricycles, bicycles, etc., and experience considerable difficulty in disposing of them. The Council, upon request, make a special collection of such articles and no charge is made for the service. It is linked to the task of trade refuse collection and so it is normal for all requests for the service to be satisfied within a week of the request being received. It is a service which is much appreciated and it is believed also that it is making a very practical contribution towards the prevention of infringements of the Litter Act.

Nightsoil Collection

Nightsoil emptying equipment is fitted to one of our Dennis cesspool emptiers. The work of nightsoil collection is carried out during normal daylight working hours by one man who is paid a plus rate of one shilling per hour in respect of the hours engaged thereon.

Pails are cleansed at sixty houses. This figure shows a reduction of sixteen or 21.05 per cent compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1958.

Nightsoil pails at one temporary caravan site are also cleansed once weekly.

Cleansing of Cesspools and the Disposal of Cesspool Contents

As will be noted from the statistical table in Appendix VII the number of cesspools which were being cleansed by the Council at the 31st December, 1959, was 482 which shows a slight increase from the number at the 31st December, 1958.

The loads totalled 4,009 as follows:—

ST. ALBANS DISTRICT:

From cesspools cleansed on request ...	2,909	loads
From cesspools cleansed at regular intervals	962	"

HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT	138	"
----------------------------------	-----	---

<hr/>	4,009	"
-------	-------	---

<hr/>	"	"
-------	---	---

With few exceptions cesspool contents are discharged into sewers.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID J. GRAHAM,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX VIII

**STATISTICS REGARDING CESSPOOLS IN THE DISTRICT
which were being cleansed by the Council at the 31st December, 1959**

PARISH	Number cleansed on request	Number cleansed at regular intervals	Totals (the figures in brackets indicate the number at 31st December, 1958)	Cesspools already included in column 4 but in respect of which a charge is made for all cleansing because they are within 100 feet of a sewer
	67	—	67 (17)	6
St. Stephens	—	—
London Colney	6	6 (5)
St. Michaels	62	2
Sandridge	27	1
Redbourn	69	—
Harpenden Rural	30	28 (28)
Wheathampstead	169	69 (62)
Colney Heath	39	30 (28)
TOTALS	...	469	10	172 (167)
				43 (50) 8
				-479 (478) 18

